

On Decision of Character.

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such as Brainerd* Eliot,t and Schwartz,J have displayed memorable examples of this dedication of their whole being: to their office, this abjuration of all the quiescent feelings.

This would be the proper place for introducing (if I did not hesitate to introduce in any connection with merely human instances) the example of him who said, " I must be about my Father's business. My meat and my drink is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. I have a baptism to be baptized with,, and how am I straitened till it be accomplished !

LETTER IV.

AFTER the illustrations on the last article, it will seem but a very slight transition when I proceed to specify Courage as an essential part of the decisive character. An intelligent man, adventurous only in thought, may sketch the most excellent scheme, and after duly admiring it, and himself as its author, may be reduced to say, What a noble spirit that would be which should dare to realize this ! A noble spirit! is it I ? And his heart may answer in the negative, while he glances a mortified thought of inquiry round to recollect persons who would venture what he dares not, and almost hopes not to find them. Or if by extreme effort he has brought himself to a resolution of braving the difficulty, he is compelled to execrate the timid lingerings that still keep him back from the trial. A man endowed with the complete character, might say, with a sober consciousness as remote from the spirit of bravado as it is from timidity, Thus, and thus, is my conviction and my determination ; now for the phantoms of fear ; let me look them in the face; their menacing glare and ominous tones will be lost on me ; " I dare do all that may become a man."§ I trust I shall firmly con-

* David Brainerd, a celebrated American missionary who devoted himself to the conversion of the Indians on the Susquehannah, Delaware, &c. Died, aged 29, 1747.

f John Eliot, known as the Apostle of the Indians, born in the West o England about 1604, died 1669.

I Christian Frederick Schwartz, a German missionary So the East Indies Born 1726, died 1788.

§ Shakespere's " Macbeth," Act I,
Scene 5«